

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE

GRAHAMVILLE AND CONNOR

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

Mr. Patrick Todd Randall's hotel, the "Randall," on Connor Heights, on the Oklawaha, is nearing completion. Captain W. C. Bull, the Ocala contractor, has finished his work on the hotel and turned it over to the carpenters, Messrs. William Counts and Henry Mason, and the painter, Mr. Bagnall, who will drive the last nail and put on the weather coat of paint, if all goes well, within a fortnight.

While at the hotel this morning Mr. Counts took us over it from the bottom to the top. The dimensions of the building is 40x60 feet, two stories. The original building was only one story in height, with eight rooms, a hallway running through the center of the building, a front piazza facing the river and a back piazza. In putting on the second story Captain Bull built it on very nearly the same plan as the ground floor. The exception is a slight difference in the shaping of the rooms, the building of a separate room for the lavatory and the omission of a back piazza. The handsome stairway is built through the center, connecting the lower and upper hallways, and the first escape from the south end of the upper hall way to the ground. The hotel faces the river and the north. The parlor and a bedroom face the river down stairs, and up stairs are two large rooms—bedrooms—each 16x16 feet, facing the river. These rooms are now furnished, and in both of these rooms are fire places. The scenic view which can be had from these rooms is a veritable garden of the gods. It takes in the flower yard and a part of the orange grove, now full of fruit, and the Oklawaha river. Five of the up stairs rooms are completed, and there remain but three and the lavatory to be finished. The six smaller rooms up stairs are each 8x16 feet. Four are on the west side of the hallway and the other two are on the east side. The spacious hallway, so conspicuous in southern homes and hotels, both up and down stairs, the wide piazzas and the large airy rooms make this hotel here amid the palmettos and orange trees on the banks of the Oklawaha a cool retreat. About two square miles of the Grahamville and Connor valley and several homes can be seen from the hotel before the view is cut off by the rampart of moss covered oaks, cypresses, pines and palmettos. If you want to spend a day picnicking come down to Connor and spend a day at the Randall. If you want to spend a week or so away from the city of noise, dust and toil, come to Connor and put up at the Randall. Come any old time, friends; come and spend a day, week or month or six months here at the Randall. Mine Host Patrick Todd Randall and his estimable wife will take good care of you and yours.

Connected with the hotel is the trim little launch Winona.

Mr. J. M. Hilliard of Birmingham, Alabama, but more recently of Panama, where Uncle Sam is cutting a canal, is in Grahamville on a visit to his wife and children, who are at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Randall. Speaking to Mr. Hilliard in regard to the laborers employed in digging the canal he said they were mostly whites—Spaniards and Mexicans. He said that negroes would not work. Of course we asked him when the canal would be finished. He said it would take from twelve to fifteen years, as the canal track was so mountainous. Our next question was pertaining to the saloons, and he said that they were everywhere. To our inquiry as to fresh meat market, he said that a full grown chicken would bring \$1.50.

In company with Mr. Samuel Long the writer took a spin up the river Friday on the government boat, the Dottie Dimple.

The government dredgeboat, the Oklawaha, is now working at a point about one mile up the old Oklawaha river. The Dottie Dimple, the Oklawaha's launch, Capt. E. W. Curtis, comes daily down to Grahamville for the mail. We went up on the return trip Friday and took a peep at the big dredge boat and noted the work of the same. This dredge boat came all the way from Leesburg, cleaning out the river as she advanced. Within a week the Oklawaha will be thro' with the little, or old, Oklawaha river, and it will then commence on the river below where the Silver Springs run joins, and clean out the logs and limbs to the mouth. In some places the little river was almost floored with logs which, we suppose, the pull-boats pulled and left there several years ago. On one bend in the river, near Sharp's Ferry, the captain said that one hundred and forty-six logs were pulled out by the government dredge. The bend where we visited the dredge was bulkheaded with logs that the dredge had thrown out. As we

stated before in this article, the little river will be finished within a week, and then even the Hiawatha or the Okeehumpkee can traverse this river clear to Leesburg.

The Hart Liner, Hiawatha, ran up on some logs on her down trip Wednesday of last week, and broke a hole in her hull, consequently the Okeehumpkee came up on Thursday's trip, also on Saturday's trip.

Rev. Lord of Anthony preached in the Methodist church in Grahamville last Wednesday night to a large congregation.

In announcing Arbor Day at Starke, the Telegraph says: "Arbor Day exercises will be held this afternoon at the high school and the citizens of the town generally are invited to attend."

Our Dr. W. H. Russell is the principal of the Starke High School.

Fourteen crates of strawberries were shipped from Starke last Saturday, says the Telegraph. Florida is a great strawberry state, and if our growers would get the real strawberry spirit and grow the delicious berry in a scientific way, as Hood River growers do out there in the valleys of Oregon, the state would turn into an immense strawberry short-cake, with a border of "long green" along the coast line, and a large stack of silver coin in the center—at Ocala. Out in Hood River the growers make on one acre of strawberries the sum of \$1000! Just think of that.

"Miss Marion" is busy putting on her spring bonnet. It will take her some time of course to get the bonnet properly adjusted. But when she gets it on good and fast she will lift her beautiful blue eyes to you and say, imaginarily: "Behold, ye Elysian Marion."

CHATTEN CHUM.

FLEMINGTON

It is proposed to erect a telephone line from here to Irvine, and to connect Irvine and Fairfield.

Then to secure connection from one of the latter places to the Bell system will put us in easy touch with the outside world.

Our truckers are now rushing to get their crops planted. The acreage does not promise to be very large and we hope for good returns.

Mrs. Viola Smoak has purchased the Dow cottage, recently vacated by Photographer Mills, and is now "at home" to her many friends. We are glad to welcome Mrs. Smoak into our midst.

Quite a number of visitors were present at the services at the Baptist church Sunday. Geiger, Irvine, Fairfield, Micanopy and Williston were represented.

Madam Rumor predicts that there will be an alliance between Fairfield and Flemington parties.

Mr. D. Fant has purchased a new buggy.

Last Thursday a party composed of fourteen men and nineteen dogs, and headed by that chief of hunters, Furman Smoak, went wildcat hunting in the pine scrub near McIntosh. A cat was started in due time and was captured after an exciting chase of two hours. Mr. Smoak has a pack of hounds of which he is very proud.

Mrs. Belle McGehee of Dunnellon spent Sunday with her parents.

Mr. J. D. Hicks of the stockade has purchased a home at Irvine, and will move thereto within the next few days.

Protographer Mills is very much interested in a little girl who came into his home some days since.

IRVINE ITEMS

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

Mr. Martin's daughter and her baby, who have been home on a visit, have returned to Georgia.

Crops are looking fine around here and everybody is getting busy planting melons and tomatoes.

M. Whistler has finished stretching his wire around his field.

Mr. Wilbur Vaughn, who has been the telegraph operator at Micanopy, is spending a few weeks with his parents.

SOUTH LAKE WEIR

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

Mr. Harry Groff and cousin, Mr. Frank Huston, spent Saturday in the Brick City.

A large crowd attended the dance held here on Friday evening.

A large gang of men are working on the S. A. L. branch, putting it in good shape.

Mr. E. S. Upham has been on a trip northward.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Groff are entertaining the former's mother from Newberry.

Mr. E. A. Masher and Mr. E. B. Killam spent Wednesday in Ocala.

Mr. Emil VanEspin was registered at the Ocala House yesterday.

LEVON LOCALS

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

Levon is still among the live ones, but we are such a busy people that we don't have much time to write.

Mrs. J. L. Doak and Miss Lessie Clements were shoppers in Ocala last week.

Dr. and Mrs. Airth and lively little sons of Live Oak are visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Scruggs.

Mr. D. U. McGinnis was a home visitor to Hawthorne last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Doak and lovely little daughter, Esther, are visiting the state fair at Tampa this week.

Mr. W. J. Frink was a business visitor to Ocala a few days since.

We regret to report the illness of Mrs. Wing, and hope she will soon recover.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis of Conant are visiting Mrs. Davis' father, Mr. Ramsdell.

Miss Sallie Spurlin of Ocala is a Levon visitor this week.

Mrs. Robert Carter of Waycross, Ga., is here for a short visit to her husband.

Mr. LaPorta, the photographer, of Ocala, is enjoying quite a liberal patronage down here. We are such a good looking people that we are anxious to preserve our likenesses on card board for the benefit of future generations.

Mrs. Simpson and children of Georgia are here on a visit to her sister, Mrs. McGehee.

We notice that young man friend of ours of the burnt derby experience, has a lovely new one, with a most bright pink band, and he is so careful of it that he carries it in his hand.

One of the prettiest and most enjoyable social affairs of this winter was the Valentine hop, given by the young men of Levon, under the directions and management of Mrs. J. E. Doak. The hall was most beautifully decorated in crimson and blue, intermingled with silver hearts, with a background of lovely Florida palms and palmettos, and the pretty costumes of the ladies added much to the beauty of the scene.

Little Miss Esther Doak, in a crimson costume with silver hearts, made a lovely picture, as she opened the hop by a two-step with her partner, Master Dick Clements, also in costume.

By no means the least important part of the program was the postoffice established by St. Valentine, and presided over by little Esther Doak as postmistress, and Master Dick Clements as postman. Everyone present was presented with a valentine favor. Quite an outside gathering of guests were present, and it is impossible to mention each one separately.

We would like to especially mention a few of the costumes, as they were so pretty and appropriate to the occasion. Little Esther Doak, in crimson, with silver trimmings, represented a valentine, and a right sweet one she made; Misses Lessie Clements, Julia Waters and Lizzie Clements, in white with crimson ribbons; Miss Grace Ramsdell, in white over crimson, trimmed with crimson hearts held in place with tiny ribbons, quite the prettiest dress on the floor; Mesdames Doak, Clements and Hill, in white and crimson.

All went merry as wedding bells till the wee sma' hour of one o'clock, and all said good night, and now the valentine hop of Levon is only a pleasant memory.

The personnel of the officers and teachers of the Levon Union Sunday school for the year 1908 is as follows: Mr. C. B. Moore, superintendent; Mrs. J. E. Doak, assistant superintendent; Mr. P. H. Hill, treasurer; Mr. D. U. McGinnis, secretary; Miss Ruth Bond, organist; Mrs. J. E. Doak, teacher Bible class; Miss Elsie Perry, teacher intermediate class; Mrs. Frank Williamson, teacher junior class.

Our Sunday school is growing slowly but surely, having an average attendance up to date of 27, since organizing in November, we have expended for literature, \$7.20, and have a balance in the treasury of \$2.77. The superintendent requests the writer to extend thanks to our Pedro visitors for their assistance and presence, and we all hope they will come again and often.

Mr. John L. Edwards of Ocala was in our town one evening last week.

Mrs. R. T. Crouch of Gainesville was visiting her mother, Mrs. B. S. Jennings, at this place Monday.

Mr. Giles Randall was visiting his brother, Dr. G. Randall, here Sunday.

Mr. C. W. Britt was a visitor at the state fair last week at Tampa, and reports everything going on fine.

There will be Sunday school at the Presbyterian church Sunday evening at 7 o'clock.

Mr. W. L. Goodwin was a visitor at Reddick Tuesday.

COW BOY.

POLITICS CONTINUE TO MAKE STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Funny things happen in politics. Claude L'Engle of the Tallahassee Sun, Albert Williamson of the Jacksonville Floridian, and Editor Carter of the Jacksonville Metropolis, are all supporting the same man for United States senator.—Pensacola News.

Col. W. N. Camp is in the city from Roanoke, Va.

FORT McCOY

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

The Fort McCoy turpentine company is forging ahead with their buildings, and if they can secure hands enough will soon have most of their important buildings ready for use. Mr. Acheson, the superintendent, says he expects to put a good stock of goods in his commissary, and will sell as cheap as the cheapest, which will be a departure from regular commissary business, as most of them charge their hands exorbitant prices for goods.

The Ocala and Northern railroad has its grade within one-half mile of the mill site, following close with ties and iron. Since this company began to work convicts on the road they have made good progress, and will soon be ready to commence on the big mill.

Several new families have already moved in and soon there will be no vacant houses within several miles of here.

There is complaint among the citizens living on the line of this new railroad about the manner in which the convicts are handled, as four of them have already escaped and are at large.

There is a strong probability of the public school at this place having to close on account of the measles, as some of the pupils are already sick with the disease.

We regret to learn that Mr. W. L. Martin (known in newspaper circles as Peter Stanley) and family will soon move to Pensacola, Fla. His brother-in-law, Mr. Frank P. Thomas, contemplates going with them.

Mr. J. J. Brinson, one of the old guard, informed the writer that he had closed his trapping for the season after capturing ten large wildcats, seventy raccoons, thirty o'possums and one large otter.

We are pleased to state that Mr. M. L. McQuaig and family have returned to their home here. They have been at Manhattan, near Astor, working with the Wilson Cypress Company for several months. Mr. McQuaig now has a position with the Fort McCoy Turpentine Company.

If there is no severe late frost this spring the prospects are good for a heavy peach crop.

Mr. H. B. Cameron of Valdosta, Ga., was here this week shaking hands with old friends. It will be remembered that he was with Mr. Robert Munroe last year in the turpentine business, but has a turpentine farm of his own now near Valdosta.

Mr. H. McQuaig, the road overseer for this district, has a small crew of men out on the roads this week, for the first work of any consequence since last year, and some of the roads were needing attention badly.

Messrs. J. N. McQuaig and son of Mud Lake are here this week, working on the public roads.

FAIRFIELD FACTS

Judging from the large crops of beans, tomatoes, cabbage and various other vegetables there will be busy times around here until after shipping season is over.

Messrs. Carter and McLaughlin have forty acres of very fine cabbage. The Milton Lumber Company will soon have their railroad completed and ready for hauling logs.

The ladies of the W. C. T. U. will hold their regular meeting Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock. They will have singing and recitations in the evening, beginning at 7 o'clock. Their regular meetings are held every fourth Sunday. A cordial invitation is extended to all who would like to visit us.

The W. O. W. will hold their regular meeting Friday night, February 21. They are introducing new members into the young forest quite frequently.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Goodwin and little son were visitors to Gainesville last week.

Judge Smith visited Reddick last Wednesday.

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EVINSTON, BOARDMAN AND McINTOSH

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

Judge Beard of Pensacola was at Evinston on his way to Micanopy, where there will be a political speaking tonight.

Mr. J. S. Richardson of Gainesville is a candidate for sheriff of Alachua county. He will also speak at Micanopy.

Mr. Low Smith of Evinston went to Grove Park Sunday, where he is camping with his brother, and returns home once a week.

Mrs. Hal Wood has been very ill for a week, but is now improving. Her friends will be glad to see her out again.

Mr. F. G. Sampson was unfortunate in losing one of his tenement houses and store house at Boardman by fire yesterday morning about 8 o'clock.

Mr. J. A. McCauley, who was the storekeeper as well as the postmaster at Boardman, lost his groceries while trying to save his dry goods, but he fortunately had them insured. Mr. Edwin McCauley, while assisting his father to save his effects, was overcome by the excessive heat, and fell in a faint. He has been quite sick ever since.

Mr. John Smith will open up a livery stable at McIntosh in a short while. He expects to move his family there and will occupy the dwelling that belongs to Mrs. Mary Seibert of Atlanta.

Rev. Mr. Price has moved into the former home of Mrs. Seibert, but which is now owned by Mr. Jeff Price of McIntosh.

Mr. Ed Gorman and brother from Winchester, Ky., arrived in McIntosh last Thursday and are stopping with Mrs. Davis.

Mr. Ed Galtskill of Winchester, Ky., is here visiting his brother, Mr. S. H. Galtskill. He comes down every winter and enjoys the fishing on Orange Lake.

Kentuckians are coming into McIntosh all the time. Many come to enjoy the fishing, others the hunting and some to try the mild climate.

Rev. Mr. Koombs, a Methodist preacher, and a cousin of Mr. Norworthy of McIntosh, whose home is in Central Illinois, preached in the Christian church at McIntosh Sunday morning.

ELECTRA ITEMS

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

Our popular merchant, Mr. J. C. Pillans, left for Tampa Saturday to take in the fair.

Mr. Clarence White has been in Tampa about two weeks seeing the city and attending the fair.

We regret to learn that Mr. J. P. Holly is still confined to his bed. He has been quite sick for two weeks.

The F. E. & C. Union held their regular meeting Saturday, and elected delegates to attend the county meeting to be held at Pedro, March 7.

A union Sunday school was organized last Sunday at Moss Bluff. A large crowd was in attendance, and Mr. William Martin was elected superintendent.

Miss MacNamara and Miss Tommy Parker are visiting their uncle, Mr. Albert Fort, of Moss Bluff.

Those who attended the party at Mr. Fort's last Friday night say that they had a most delightful time.

Moss Bluff's popular teacher, Miss Bettie McCauley, was the guest of Miss Dixie Pillans Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Bishop had a second rehearsal Friday evening, and the children are reported to be getting up their parts nicely for the entertainment.

JOHN PETER.

BELLEVUE BRIEFS

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union held a silver tea at the Methodist parsonage on Tuesday afternoon. There was an unusually good attendance, both of the members and their friends. We enjoyed a pleasant literary and musical entertainment, after which dainty refreshments were served. A good sum was realized, part of which will be forwarded to the Frances E. Willard memorial fund.

We are glad to welcome back on our streets who are just out after a long illness.

Mr. Adams and family are leaving this week for their former home at Lake Weir.

Mr. Campbell and family are enjoying a visit here with some friends from Tennessee.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bryant are expected to return today from the state fair at Tampa.

Mrs. Farris and daughters, Maude and Gladys, leave today to make their home in Jacksonville.

Mrs. J. J. Nelson visited her brother and her son in Tampa last week.

LIVELY LOWELL

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

This little town seems to be on a boom now. Every residence is being

The farmers are very busy preparing to plant their crops. Mr. J. M. McGeer will put in a large crop of watermelons this season. Mr. Tom McQuaig will plant largely in tomatoes. There will also be quite a lot of beans and cantaloupes planted.

Mr. Jordan, from the north, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Montague at their pleasant home on Hillside Grove.

Mr. Walter Schuler and sister of Vermont arrived Thursday last. They will spend a while with their uncle, Mr. Montague.

Mrs. S. F. Ross came home Wednesday morning from Atlanta, where she had taken her little baby girl to undergo an operation, but on account of the little one being so young it was decided best not to have it done. Mr. Ross and little son, Myron, met them in Jacksonville.

Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Webb of Scotland county, N. Y., are very highly appreciated in our midst. Mr. Webb is employed by Mr. Moffett.

We are glad to have Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Baxter in our little burg again. Miss Lillie Stuart of Anthony is visiting Mrs. Baxter at present.

Mr. Donald M. Livingston and Miss Sally Nell were married last Sunday evening at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Hall of this place. Mr. Hall performed the ceremony. Mr. Livingston is formerly of Brunswick, Ga., having come here about nine months ago as agent for the A. C. L., and which place he has filled very satisfactorily. The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Neil, pioneer settlers of Marion county.

Mr. W. D. Carn visited our school Monday. The school is doing nicely under the management of Miss Ida R. Guess, and Mr. Carn was well pleased with its progress.

Rev. T. H. Strunk and wife were pleasant visitors here Monday.

Protracted services will commence at the Methodist church at Reddick Monday night, February 24. All Christians are requested to pray that we may have a great revival in this community.

Mr. Phillips of Ocala was here on business Monday.

Mr. Brue Moffett did not return on Monday, as usual, being otherwise employed in Ocala.

The serenade was enjoyed Monday night by others besides Mr. and Mrs. Livingston.

What is the trouble with the gray horses these days? They do not seem to like Lowell any more.

GAITER CLEANINGS

Special Cor. Ocala Banner:

The Valentine party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Ross last Friday evening was a grand success, and for which we desire to thank them very much for their generous hospitality.

There was a large number of guests present, and after many lively games were played supper was served, which was a treat to all present. After supper the Valentines were drawn, when all departed for their respective homes, after bidding the host and hostess good night.

Messrs. F. D. and L. F. Sparkman and J. E. Brooks are pleasant visitors to the state fair this week.

Buggy riding is the order of the day. Look out girls, everything that glitters is not gold. Ha! Ha! Just a joke.

Oh, yes, D. L. M. is chief cook and bottle washer again.

Mr. R. L. Horne and sister of Holder were pleasant visitors in this place last Sunday.

We understand that Miss Inez Ross will soon be our postmistress. We wish her much success.

Mr. E. L. Redding butchered one of the largest beeves that has been killed in Gaiter for some time last Monday evening. It weighed 641 pounds.

MAUD S.

TAX ASSESSOR'S APPOINTMENTS

I will be at the following places on time specified to receive tax returns for 1908:

February, 1908

Eureka, 21st—a. m.

Daisy, 21st—p. m.

Fort McCoy, 22nd—a. m.

Pine, 22nd—p. m.

Anthony, 27th.

Sparr, 28th—a. m.

Citra, 28th—p. m.

Orange Springs, 29th—p. m.

March, 1908

Ocala—From 7th to 31st.

The law requires all tax returns to be made by 1st of April.

Postmasters will please cut out and post this notice.

ALFRED AYER, Assessor.